

THE SPECTATOR

A Good Fire Company Needs More Than Modern Apparatus

There will be dancing in the streets next Saturday afternoon and evening (June 26) and the bands will be playing. Food and drink will be there aplenty, with everybody welcome, and as close a thing to a fireman's fair as one could look for in less than a ten-acre field.

The occasion will be what is called "housing the engine," but this time it's a hook-and-ladder, of a kind and dimension that are altogether different from the old type which everybody used to know so well. In the Memorial Day parade the new equipment rolled along as proud and pompous as might be expected in a piece of unique apparatus that cost more than \$20,000. It stirred great interest and not the least thing to be noticed was the old order had surely passed and no longer would there be a hundred or more children perched in every conceivable place, as was the case when the old machine was put on parade for each of the previous 25 years.

Easy enough is it to recall when those who are now prim and proper matrons (hello, Jane) used to ride the old hook-and-ladder on every holiday occasion and the wonder was that the vast bulk of them did not overturn the machine or how it happened that the boys and girls themselves did not fall off in huddled heaps of spindly legs. "Packed like sardines," would be the handy expression to describe it, but the Narberth kids had something on the sardines when it came to clever compression and that's a fact.

No, there can never be anything like that on this hand-some and ultra-modern pride of the fleet that has come to town to replace the one that has been in service here for 26 years, and which was sold for \$900 to do still more chores for a place in Jersey or perhaps it was somewhere else. The new machine is truly a majestic marvel, every inch of it of well-conceived utility, and it has a stately beauty that proves again that mechanical ingenuity has learned to express itself in designs that are of the very essence of high art.

Seagraves Aerial Ladder is what they call it, and it weighs 13 tons and is 42½ feet long. The cab can accommodate seven riders and that is a feature of large advantage, for men get soaking wet in handling a fire and if they are exposed to winter winds, or to rain to snow, on the home trip, pleurisy or pneumonia often prove to be the aftermath. In the heated cab, the firemen have a chance to keep out of the weather, to dry off, and whatever local man arranged for that facility certainly rates a nice and special extra minute on the records.

The almost automatic ladder operates on a 10-foot turn-table and rears itself to a height of 65 feet in double-quick manner, far less than a minute. A 240-horse motor provides the power and the operator can spot-shot the device with a precision that is quite uncanny.

Behold the distraught dowager who is trapped in a room on the top floor of a large apartment house. She is at the window and she implores that aid shall come to her. As quick as a flash the aerial ladder is at her reach, with a fireman ready to help the lady in her descent. Down she comes, and on rubber-covered rungs, foot-socks, with a hand-rail on each side to make the expedition as decorous as possible, a de luxe delivery if there ever was one. In fact, Chief Nully says, if a drapery is needed, for the benefit of females who are reluctant to appear publicly in disheveled, that can readily be part of the standard set-up. Al further states that this same solicitude does not exist for men.

The ladder can be made to stop at any height, exactly at the place where it is wanted, and it is as firm as bed-rock when instantly set for action. Numerous gadgets

regulate each feature of the operation, but the boast is that the machine can be completely mastered in an hour's instructions, which precludes the need of highly expert handling.

Narberth is indeed ace-high in its fire department, and the Borough now enjoys the lowest possible insurance for any section where shingle houses continue to exist. Those who live here in homes of modern all-brick or stone construction suffer a slight penalty because of the number of shingle houses which are here, but even at that the rates on the shingle houses and the houses of slower-burning build are low enough to warrant general satisfaction.

It is also good to observe the smart planning which has the local fire company in such excellent ship-shape. Whoever conceived the idea surely knows his onions.

Each year Council appropriates \$15,000 for fire purposes. The Narberth Fire Company carries on from there. They must save a substantial, specified sum each year towards new equipment. They must pay the water company \$40 per year for each of the numerous fire hydrants which abound in the town. They must pay the wages of the men who are on the job all day and night to answer the fire calls. They must pay everything—amortization and interest on the real estate mortgage; repairs, tires, gas and oil, for Council gives once a year and only once. Sometimes it happens that the official allotment falls short of what is needed and when that occurs the company taps its own modest till and makes up the difference.

Other funds come to the company from auxiliary memberships, \$3 per year from those citizens who wish to contribute. There should be more participation on this score than there is and generally realized that fire insurance in this section would cost a great deal more if our fellows did not qualify for the high rating the underwriters give them. Helpful also is the fact that the State distributes to volunteer fire companies that tax it imposes on the policies issued by foreign fire insurance companies which do have their home offices in Pennsylvania. In Narberth's case, that amounts to a few hundred dollars annually.

It is proverbial that fire-fighters are gregarious guys (at least among themselves) and like to have some fun when they have their meetings. Well, the sandwiches and did you say beer (or was it sarsaparilla?) come out of the membership fund when the parties are held. The same fund also pays for the services of the technical instructors who come regularly to acquaint the local corps with the latest fire-fighting methods. The fund also pays the insurance for the men who are injured or who die while on duty.

And we won't ever forget that Fire Chief Charles V. Noel did die in the line of duty, that his life was snuffed out by fumes or gases, in terribly swift manner, and that his record of 35 years of devoted service should be a cherished thing as long as life lasts. That piece of bronze on the walls of Elm Hall will serve to keep his memory green and let the town be grateful that those who follow Charlie are also men of sterling mold, faithful to their task, skilled in their work, and superbly disregardful of their own convenience when the call comes to rush to the aid of their neighbors.

Yes, there is something fine and grand in the wholesome spirit of the volunteer fireman, and it is well to be bedazzled of nights when the siren shrieks, for even when we stay warm in our own beds we can share, by reflection, in their unselfish enterprise and be glad that we have such capable and well-disposed men to befriend us when peril or menace comes.

THE SPECTATOR.

Colorful Celebration Will Mark Formal Housing of Borough's New Aerial Ladder Truck June 26

Narberth Keeps Montgomery Ave. Zoning

Borough Council Rejects Plea for Business Area

Says Change Would Be Inimical to Welfare of Borough Residents

Narberth Borough Council, on recommendation of its building committee, Monday night refused a petition to downgrade the zoning of Montgomery Ave., between Iona and Narberth Aves. The petition asked for a change from residential to commercial classification.

The building committee, in a report read by Sterling M. Chain, chairman, recommended that the petition be turned down for three reasons which had been determined after holding a public hearing May 14. The reasons were:

1. No necessity for additional business on Montgomery Ave., or elsewhere in the Borough, was shown by the petitioners.

2. No actual hardship was shown to exist because of the present zoning classification.

3. A change in the classification would be detrimental to the entire spirit of the zoning ordinance and inimical to the general welfare of the Borough residents.

Henry P. Carr, chairman of the Council Finance committee, who lives at 415 N. Narberth Ave., near the area in question, took no part in either the discussions at the hearing or the voting Monday night.

The property includes an R-2 section on Montgomery Ave., between N. Narberth Ave. and Price Ave., and an R-4 section between Price and Iona Aves. The area is directly across from commercial establishments, including shops, gasoline stations and a food market on the Lower Merion Township side of the street.

The petitioners asked for the (Continued on Page Three)

Their Big Day Is June 26



A group of active members of the Narberth Fire Company lined up in front of the Fire Hall recently to get ready for the gala celebration of the housing of their new fire truck which will be housed June 26. The group will be hosts to several companies of surrounding areas on the big day, and have planned quite a program. The first row (left to right) includes: Harry Holler, Joe Rubican, George Gillespie, Paul Whollert, Chief Albert Nully and Ernest Jenkins. The second row (left to right) includes: George Purring, Howard Cotter, Ernest Bouley, Elmer Jenkins, Dick Blessing, Harry Horton, Thomas Casey and Elmer Jenkins, Jr. The third row includes: Thomas Stenson, Harry Seasholtz and Dave Duncan.

Ask Removal of Parking Meters On Windsor Ave.

Property Owners Object to Blocked Streets

A petition requesting the removal of 35 parking meters on Windsor Ave. was presented to Narberth Borough Council Monday night by Otto B. Duer, Narberth Justice of the Peace.

Duer said he was speaking on behalf of property owners in the vicinity. The petition stated that the meters had brought very little revenue into the Borough, and were causing hardship to residents in the area surrounding the meters.

Duer declared that because the meters had been placed on Windsor Ave., from the east side of Essex Ave. to the west side of N. Narberth Ave., motorists were parking on nearby streets which do not have meters, and were blocking the streets to the property owners.

Duer also stated that out of 35 meters, only a few had been turned over \$1 in revenue in the seven weeks since they were installed.

Walter A. Fox, president of Council, after turning the petition over to the Council Property Committee, remarked that the meters had not been installed primarily for revenue, but to facilitate the flow of traffic in the Borough business section, and to provide additional parking space in the center of the town.

Other council members pointed out that many motorists still do not realize that the parking limit on the Windsor Ave. meters is two hours and that when they do, the meters will probably be used more extensively.

TO RECEIVE BS DEGREE

William E. King, of 308 Hamilton Rd., Merion, is one of 373 University of Illinois seniors who will be awarded diplomas at commencement exercises Friday.

Borough Lyric Soprano Chosen Winner in National Contest

Kathryn Westman, of 200 Elmwood Ave., Narberth, has been chosen as a finalist in a national contest sponsored recently in New York by the National Music Festival.

Mrs. Westman, wife of Charles V. Westman, was chosen by judges of the Festival Association after appearing in a recital in Carnegie Hall April 23. The judges chose Mrs. Westman over other contestants who had sung previously in the hall as part of the contest. Mrs. Westman sang three selections to be declared winner.

A lyric soprano, Mrs. Westman will appear in a recital this fall with winners in other vocal and instrumental divisions of the contest. The fall recital will also be held in Carnegie Hall and will be judged by New York music critics.

A graduate of Lower Merion High School, Mrs. Westman sang the lead role in Puccini's "La Boheme," presented in Philadelphia last year by the American Opera Company, and now participates in a weekly radio program over Radio Station WFIL. She will appear in the summer series program presented by the Ocean City Municipal Pier Association.

Communion Service at Presbyterian Church

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered at the morning worship service of the Narberth Presbyterian Church Sunday. At this service new members will be received publicly.

The church has announced that the children's and infants' nursery will be open during the summer months for the convenience of the congregation. Mrs. Willis Ludwig is in charge of the baby nursery and Mrs. John C. Haylick is in charge of the children's group.

Preparations for the church picnic to be held Sunday, June 26, are underway.

Succumbs in Bala

Funeral services for Joseph R. Mickle, of 104 Union Ave., Bala, who died Friday at his home, were held Tuesday afternoon from Oliver H. Bair's, Philadelphia. He was head of the Joseph R. Mickle Advertising Agency.

Also: fish pond, Frank McEnaney, chairman; flags, Cub Scouts, William J. Carr, chairman and James Jordan, assistant; frankfurters and rolls, Methodist Church, Mrs. A. J. Purring, chairman, and Mrs. Robert Smith, assistant; ice cream and popsicles, Parent-Teachers Association, Mrs. Charles Nevin, chairman; lemonade, Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion, Mrs. Eleanor Smyth, chairman, and Mrs. Robert Waters, assistant; chairmen, with Miss Arlene Smyth as assistant; potato salad, Junior Women's Club, Mrs. Edward Smith, chairman, and Mrs. A. M. Bottoms, assistant.

Also: sandwiches, Women's Community Club, Mrs. Edward Smith, chairman, with Mrs. A. M. Bottoms, assistant; soft drinks and pretzels, St. Margaret's Church, Mrs. Robert Rietmiller, chairman; white elephant table, Narberth Volunteer Emergency Relief, Mrs. R. C. Kennedy, chairman; garden spot, Mrs. Ralph Hoyle, chairman, with Mrs. E. Lee Goldsborough, Jr., and Mrs. Walter C. Groff as assistants; post-ice cream, Mrs. L. Grey, chairman, and George Daley, assistant; Volunteer Medical Service Corps, E. P. Frankenthal, chairman, and grounds, Willis Ludwig, chairman.

Visiting Firemen Will Participate; Bands Will Enliven Gala Occasion; Entire Community Invited to Attend Events on Big Day's Program

"Housing of the Engine," a ritual which is said to be based on an English custom of the early 19th Century, will occur in Narberth on Saturday afternoon of next week, June 26.

The Borough's newly acquired aerial ladder truck will be formally installed in the local fleet of fire apparatus and there will be a great deal of ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

3 Injured as Cars Buckle in City Line Crash

Wet Pavements Blamed For Four-Car Collision Early Sunday Morning

Three were injured in a collision at City Line and Belmont Aves., Bala, early Sunday morning, when a car skidded on the wet pavement and crashed into the last of a line of three cars waiting for the light to change.

The force of the impact, according to Lower Merion Police, knocked the third car against the second, which in turn struck the first.

Following the collision the car which had skidded into the others swerved and plowed across the

Twenty minutes after the first accident, Patrolman Frank A. Mason, 46, of the 61st and Thompson Sts. Police Station was seriously injured when he was struck by a car while directing traffic around the wreckage of the first collision.

Mason was hit by a car which sideswiped and careened off another vehicle striking him and hurling him into the air. At Philadelphia General Hospital his condition was described as serious.

four-lane highway to the sidewalk, narrowly missing several pedestrians.

Driver of the car, Leo V. Coor, 53, of 123 Grassmere Rd., Bala, was detained at Bryn Mawr Hospital, with a fracture of the right knee and contusions of the face.

The car struck by Coor was driven by Harry Fox, Jr., 45, of 3433 Plumstead Ave., Drexel Hill. Fox's car hit an auto driven by William J. Coopersmith, 21, of 20 Old Lancaster Rd., Bala, who in turn hit an auto driven by Louis J. Lerro, 42, of 3 Elmwood Ave., Narberth.

Coopersmith was treated at Bryn Mawr Hospital for sprained neck muscles. William Coor, 51, also of Cynwyd, brother of the driver of the first car, suffered abrasions and lacerations of the face.

Patrolmen from Lower Merion Police, Philadelphia Police and the State Police from the Belmont Barracks were called to direct the ensuing traffic jam.

Narberth Youth Drowned Friday At Hammonton

Tragedy Took Place During Outing of Church Group.

Fifteen-year-old Walter Byrd, of 206 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, was drowned in Mullica River, near Hammonton, N. J., Friday afternoon, while his sister, Phyllis, 17, who cannot swim, looked on in helpless horror.

The two had gone for a day's outing on the river with 25 other girls and boys from the Christian Endeavor Society of Narberth Presbyterian Church, as well as several adult members of the church.

Walter, a sophomore at Lower Merion Senior High School, was swimming in the river about 3 P.M. He turned and swam downstream toward a deep part of the river, according to witnesses, and disappeared suddenly under the surface.

When he failed to reappear, others in the party swam to the spot and dived in search of him, but were unsuccessful. Hammonton police were notified and the town rescue squad located the body after a search of about an hour.

Artificial respiration was attempted and an inhalator applied for more than an hour before the boy was pronounced dead by Dr. A. L. Esposito, of Hammonton.

Besides his sister, Walter is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Byrd; another sister, Norma, 14, and a brother, Sgt. Wendell Byrd, USA, now with the Army Medical Depot in Furth, Germany.

Funeral services are being held this Thursday afternoon from the Narberth Presbyterian Church. Interment will be in Hiram Memorial Park, near Media.

W. P. Davies Resigns Council Post After Move From Boro

William P. Davies, Borough Councilman for eight years and Narberth resident for 31 years, resigned from his Council post Monday night.

His resignation, made necessary by his recent move from the Borough, was offered with sincere regret and was reluctantly accepted by Council.

Chairman of the property committee of Council, Davies was also a member of the finance and police committees and a member of the Borough Recreation Board. He had been elected for an additional four-year term at the elections held last November. His term is four years.

Davies, in his capacity as property committee chairman, is directly responsible for the recent installation of the lighting equipment on the basketball court of the community playground. He also had much to do with the repairs and maintenance of the Community Building and worked a great deal with members of all organizations connected with the building.

He will continue as general chairman of the Narberth Fourth of July celebration, a post he has held for the past two years.

Davies retired from business life in January, 1947, after 34 years as district supervisor of service with the General Electric Company. Davies now resides in the Wynnewood Park Apartments.

Fourth of July Plans Accelerate as Chairmen, Booths Are Listed; Contributions Start for Fireworks Display in Evening

Chairmen and co-chairmen of booths and activities for the day-time program of the Narberth Fourth of July celebration were announced this week by Sterling M. Chain, chairman. The chairmen of the various activities are:

Baby show, 10 A. M., Mrs. J. Harper, chairman. Costume parade, 10:15, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Smith, chairman; Raymond Kaufman, assistant chairman. Tennis exhibition, 10:30, Norman Bramall and

Registrations for Fourth of July activities will be accepted Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 30, and July 1, 2 and 3, in the Narberth Electric Shop, Haverford and Forrest Aves., from 2 to 5 P. M.

Miss Jane Austin, 11 A. M., sports and races, Sterling M. Chain, chairman; Carlton Harkness, assistant chairman, and Richard Gillis, Samuel Barclay, William Howard and Mrs. Mabel Hunsicker, assistants.

1 P. M., grand march led by William Howard. 2 P. M., pet show; Thomas Merkle, chairman. Also at 2 P. M., movies, W. J. Drennen, chairman; Mrs. Samuel Barclay, assistant chairman. Poles, John Brennen, Kiddie coop, Miss Dorothy Maier, chairman; Mrs. Mervin

William S. Howard, chairman of the night program for Narberth's Fourth of July celebration, said this week that contributions have started to come in at a generous rate and he is optimistic the collection would at least be equal of previous years.

He said, however, that fireworks, like everything else, had advanced in cost and because of that he hoped that the citizens generally would observe the \$2 minimum donation that had been suggested. The merchants, well aware from their own businesses that prices had hiked, were reported as agreeing on a uniform subscription of \$5, instead of the \$3 which was the case in previous years.

When Chairman Howard was asked whether the advertising project on Independence Day under the auspices of a Philadelphia paper would have any influence on the size of the Narberth crowd, his answer was that the local show had nothing in common with what would occur in Philadelphia.

In Narberth, he pointed out, the people assemble in comfortable circumstances, among their own friends and neighbors, and the displays are in the immediate vision of every individual spectator. In Philadelphia one would have to walk miles to get near the show, as all automobile traffic will be banned, and great personal inconvenience is inevitable. The alternative is that one must be content to see the fireworks from afar, which is a totally different diversion from that which is afforded by Narberth's attractive facilities.

According to Howard, there is no information that a single Narberth resident journeyed to Fairmount Park for his pyrotechnics, but that, on the contrary, hundreds of Philadelphians continued their annual custom of visiting the Borough on the night of the Fourth of July to see what is often described as the best fireworks show in Pennsylvania or New Jersey.

Howard promises the spectacle will be even better this year and he is in weekly conference with the contractors in order to assure a program of unique brilliance and novelty.

The first list of contributors will be published next week.

Fay, Mrs. Fred Robb and George Gray, assistant chairmen; Girl Scouts, assistants.

Groups and the activities they sponsor are:

Aprons, Needlework Guild, Mrs. Caldwell, chairmen; Girl Scouts, Mrs. Karl M. Williams, chairman, assisted by Mrs. Harry Watts; cakes and pies, Mrs. Del

Fletcher and Mrs. B. R. Eberly, co-chairmen; candy, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mrs. Joseph Tripican, chairman, and Mrs. George Albert, Sr., assistant; deviled eggs and potato chips, Baptist Church of the Evangel, Mrs. William H. Quirin, chairman; Mrs. Mary Michener, assistant chairman, and Mrs. Charlotte Claphanson and Mrs.

Margaret Williams, assistants; doughnuts and coffee, Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Mary Merkel, chairman, and Mrs. Titus Strawhecker, assistant.

Also: fish pond, Frank McEnaney, chairman; flags, Cub Scouts, William J. Carr, chairman and James Jordan, assistant; frankfurters and rolls, Methodist Church, Mrs. A. J. Purring, chairman, and Mrs. Robert Smith, assistant; ice cream and popsicles, Parent-Teachers Association, Mrs. Charles Nevin, chairman; lemonade, Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion, Mrs. Eleanor Smyth, chairman, and Mrs. Robert Waters, assistant; chairmen, with Miss Arlene Smyth as assistant; potato salad, Junior Women's Club, Mrs. Edward Smith, chairman, and Mrs. A. M. Bottoms, assistant.

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